

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1253  
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to recognize the descendants of Giovanni  
Allesandro Emilio Rossi, who will celebrate the  
Russ Family Reunion on July 4, 2004 at Mt.  
Juliet, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this nation draws its strength and vitality from the contributions of the millions of immigrants who came to our shores seeking freedom, economic opportunity, and the chance to improve their lot in life; the lives of their descendants constitute the countless threads that form the fabric of our society; and

WHEREAS, one such immigrant was Giovanni Alessandro Emilio Rossi, born September 11, 1856, in Lucca, Toscana, Italy, the first born son of Basilio Rossi, son of Vincenzo Rossi; Emilio, as Giovanni Allesandro Emilio Rossi was known, married Lucia Metilde Puccetti on February 10, 1880, in Lucca; and

WHEREAS, the young couple had one son, Adolino, born in Italy; when Adolino was five months old, his father, Emilio, and his uncle, Alessandro, decided to go to America to prepare for Emilio's family to follow, and shipped out of Marseilles, France on the ship, Picardie; and

WHEREAS, Emilio and his brother had been urged by Uncle Luigi Rossi to come to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to make a new life; Uncle Luigi also invited three other brothers to come, but only Emilio and a brother, Agostino, stayed in America; and

WHEREAS, Uncle Luigi urged Emilio and his brothers to change the name Rossi to Russ, because discarding the "I" at the end would make the name sound less Italian, and local Tuscan pronunciation made the use of a "u" for the first vowel seem appropriate; henceforth, the Rossis from Lucca who came to America would use the name Russ; and

WHEREAS, after becoming established in Harrisburg, Emilio sent for Lucia Metilde and Adolino, and soon the couple had two more children, a daughter, Alfreidina, and a son, Ralph; Alfreidina had no children, but Ralph had seven, six of whom are still living; and



WHEREAS, the firstborn son, Adolino, born March 7, 1881, married Lillian Mary Langlois of Michigan on February 3, 1909, in Denver, Colorado; nine children were born to the couple in Colorado: Richard, Maria, Helen (now deceased), Paul, Walter (died as an infant), John, Joseph, Frederick (died at age one), and Ralph (now deceased); and

WHEREAS, from the seven children of Adolino "Ad" Russ and Lillian, 25 grandchildren were born; the 25 grandchildren gave birth to 38 great-grandchildren, who in turn produced 24 great-great grandchildren, giving Ad Russ 96 descendants; and

WHEREAS, the first generation from Ad and Lillian Russ raised their families in Denver, except for Richard, who raised his family in Arkansas and Joseph, who raised his family in California; the following generations, however, have expanded into Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Iowa; and

WHEREAS, though the family patriarch, Emilio, and his son Adolino, have departed this Earth, they left behind a legacy of adventure, faith, love, and family cohesiveness; of the 96 or more descendants of Adolino, almost every one knows the others; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with their family tradition, this group of Russ family members has made semi-annual treks to various parts of the country to gather for reminiscing and celebrating their heritage; the members of this strong and vital clan have elected to gather in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee on July 4, 2004, to renew their family ties and recall the myriad events of their lives together in this country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we welcome the many family members of Emilio and Adolino Russ to Tennessee and join with them as they celebrate their rich family heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express to the Russ family our appreciation for the contributions to our nation that they as a family have made over several generations and offer them our best wishes for a happy and rewarding reunion and a safe journey home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.